**Waiting list for STD/PCOs in Andhra Pradesh**

4621. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public telephones operating in Andhra Pradesh presently;

(b) the number of such public telephones operating in Cuddapah district presently;

(c) whether there is any demand for more public telephones under the STD/PCO regime in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, what is the waiting list for such STD/PCOs in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, 77196 public Telephones are operating in Andhra Pradesh as on 1.4.2000.

(b) In Cuddapah district 2503 Public telephones are operating as on 1.4.2000.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As on 1.4.2000, 7304 applicants are in the waiting list for allotment of STD/PCOs.

**Sankhya Vahini Project**

4622. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal for forming the joint venture for the Sankhya Vahini Project was mooted in the meeting of the task force on Information Technology of Government chaired by Shri Chandra Babu Naidu on 5th September, 1998;

(b) if so, whether minutes of this meeting was formally adopted and confirmed;

(c) whether making such proposal including the identification of joint venture partner is consistent with the terms of reference of the task force; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decisions taken during the meeting held on 5th September 1998 were conveyed by the Member Convener, National Task Force on Information Technology and Software vide his letter dated 23rd September 1998. The minutes of the IT Task Force meeting held on 21st November 1998 confirms the decisions taken during the meeting held on 5th September 1998. The minutes also annex a copy of the MOU signed between DOT and IUNet/CMU.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The terms of reference of the IT Task Force inter-alia authorised them to "...determine the means for creating a National Informatics Infrastructure (NII) backbone, bridging it to the Local Informatics Infrastructure (LTI) and the Global Informatics Infrastructure (GII)..."

**Review of Sankhya Vahini Project**

4623. SHRI K.M KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications has not agreed to the proposal of Government regarding 'Sankhya Vahini' high-speed data network;

(b) if so, whether Government are rethinking to review its move and try to find out the similar technologies available for similar purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The Standing Committee of Parliament while examining the Demand for grants for the DOT/DTS, for the year 2000-2001 has recommended that the matter should be looked into in-depth and reviewed before the Joint Venture Agreement is finally entered into.

(b) to (d) As reported by the then Chairman of National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development, the Sankhya Vahini Project was conceived after broad based consultation